Price stability of agricultural commodities under plantation and spices sector

4505. SHRI N.K. PREMA CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider to implement any schemes to ensure the stability of prices of agricultural commodities under plantation and spices sector in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission have recommended to discontinue the financial assistance to rubber cultivations in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any decision on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) For the benefit of the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco Government has approved setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore, which covers Kerala State also.

(c) to (e) The Rubber Plantation Development Scheme is yet to be considered for implementation during the Tenth Five-Year Plan.

PSF for plantation crops growers

4506. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved setting up of Price Stabilization Fund for plantation crops in order to safeguard the interests of the growers;

(b) if so, the details of the Fund;

(c) the total corpus of the Fund; and

(d) the number of growers who are going to be covered under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore for the benefit of the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco.

(d) 20,526 growers from Andhra Pradesh will be covered under the Price Stabilization Fund Scheme.

Export of services

4507. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2001, the services export was about one-fifth of external trade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that export of services is now 31.4 per cent of our total exports and only six countries in the world have the services export higher than us;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to gear up the export of more services than goods; and

(d) which of the Indian services are being recognized to be brought up to the world standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) As per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) press release of 2001, India's exports in Commercial Services was 14.54% of external trade.

(b) As per the latest WTO press release of 2002, India's export of services is 29.27% of total exports and India ranks 21st amongst the leading exporters of commercial services in the world.

(c) Under the Exim Policy, the Government has formulated a scheme wherein Service Providers have been allowed duty free credit entitlement for import of spares, office equipment and furniture, professional equipment and consumables, except the agriculture and dairy products. The entitlement would be equivalent to 10% of the average foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding three licensing years excepting for the Service Providers in the Tourism Sector. The entitlement in the case of hotels of the category of three star and above and those related to the Tourism Sector, registered with the Department of Tourism, would be 5% of the average foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding three licensing years. The scheme will cover only those Service Providers who have an average foreign exchange earning of over Rs. 10 lakhs in the preceding three licensing years.

(d) Government of India would provide necessary impetus for export of services from India, which have competitive advantage in the service sector on